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DIRECTORATE OF  
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World Reaction: There has been no official response to the bombing halt as yet from North Vietnam and other Communist countries, but several Free World leaders have expressed official support.

The initial public response will probably come later today in a press conference scheduled by the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris. Reportedly, the Communist delegates were "elated" by the news. According to the press, however, one Vietnamese spokesman claimed that Hanoi would object to any continuation of reconnaissance flights over North Vietnam.

In Saigon, the government issued a terse announcement that the US had "unilaterally" decided upon a cessation of the air attacks. President Thieu reportedly summoned a meeting of his top civilian and military advisers to discuss the implications of the US action for South Vietnam. He plans a speech to his people concerning the bombing halt on 2 November. Initial, fragmentary reports indicate that the US action evoked a relatively passive response among the Saigon populace.

Leaders from several of the troop-contributing countries in Vietnam have publicly endorsed the halt. Prime Minister Gorton of Australia declared that there were "good grounds" for the US action, while New Zealand's premier welcomed the move as a "major step" toward peace. Both leaders, along with spokesmen in Seoul and Manila, however, cautioned that many difficulties lie ahead before real progress toward peace is realized. There were no indications in the statements by the allies that they are seeking to participate directly in the talks at this stage.

Reaction from the Communist states has been cautious. Neither Moscow nor Peking has yet offered any comment on the President's announcement, although an unidentified Soviet bloc diplomat in Paris called

[it a step in the right direction. Prague radio was the first of the European Communist media to carry a straight news report of the announcement.

Among the major Free World countries, West Germany, Canada, Japan, and India were the first to express official support for the bombing halt. Their statements contained the caution, however, that it was only a first step. [REDACTED]

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Rhodesia: Prime Minister Ian Smith on 31 October officially accepted most of Britain's latest terms for a settlement.

Salisbury still rejects Britain's proposal that the British Privy Council review future constitutional amendments affecting the political rights of black Rhodesians. It has, however, left open the way to a compromise on this issue.

George Thomson, British minister in charge of Rhodesian negotiations, is due in Salisbury this weekend. Most of the remaining differences may be worked out then. If the UK is willing to compromise on its privy council proposal--which Wilson has said he will consider--a settlement may be reached in the near future.

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Korea: North Korean infiltrators have been using more aggressive tactics in the DMZ area during the past two weeks.

Several North Korean teams, instead of trying to avoid contact, have ambushed United Nations Command patrols south of the zone. In the latest such attack, on 31 October, five South Korean soldiers were killed. Between 23 and 26 October, the North Koreans mined several military roads.

These aggressive North Korean tactics might provoke South Korean retaliation. [redacted] South Korean forces killed about 20 North Koreans in a retaliatory raid across the military demarcation line on 19 October. [redacted] the South Koreans frequently make such forays. [redacted]

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